Picturesque Niagara.
[United States, 189-?]









NIAGARA FALLS IN SUMMER.—Niagara Falls is between Lakes Erie and Ontario, distant about twenty miles from Buffalo. Niagara River has a total fall of three hundred and thirty feet, in the thirty-six miles of its course, as follows: The smaller Rapids above the Falls, fifteen feet; the principal water-fall, one hundred and sixty feet; the large Rapids below, fifty-five feet, and from the Falls to Lewiston, through the gorge, one hundred feet. The summer time clothes the margins of the Falls with beautiful verdure, and it is then that they are visited by the largest number of tourists drawn to this wonder spot from all countries of the world.



AMERICAN FALLS FROM GOAT ISLAND.—Luna Island, the point of which is shown, cannot be reached by carriage, for it is accessible only by a foot bridge that connects it with Goat Island. It is a dainty little bit of soil and verdure, gradually wasting from the gnawing waters, and in another century it may be eaten away entirely. Goat Island, however, will remain, for it is both large and rugged, and from it a superb view of American Falls may be obtained.



VIEW OF AMERICAN FALLS.—Niagara Falls at one time presented the spectacle of one solid wall of water emptying the entire river, but centuries of erosion have diverted the flow until now, and for many years beyond the memory of man, the cataract is divided into what are known as Horseshoe Falls, and American Falls. It has fallen to the lot of the United States—because of the deeper channel that forms the boundary line between this country and Canada—to acquire a greater share of the Falls, as well also quite three-fourths of the islands in Niagara River.



THE BRINK OF AMERICAN FALLS.—The fell terror and awfulness of the cataract is seen here, where it sweeps in mighty but graceful volume over the ledge and screams with giant voice as the waters plunge to abysmal depths and thereafter fight their way through whirlpool and rapid, till they join the quiet stream far below. The view is magnificent for its sheer mightiness, and few there are who look that can turn away without feeling their insignificance in the presence of this wonderful manifestation of nature in her powerful mood.



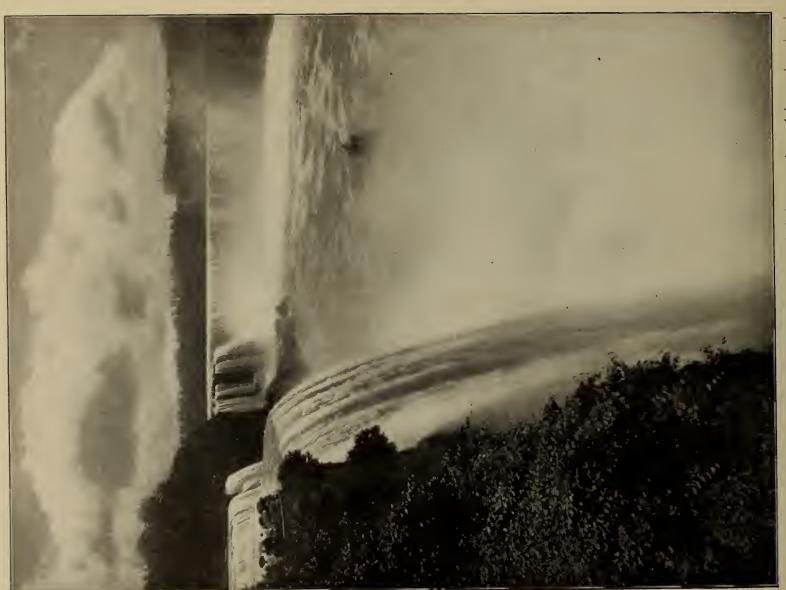
UPPER RAPIDS AND HORSESHOE FALLS.—The Falls of Niagara may be viewed from a hundred different positions and yet each one will show some point of advantage, for the cataract and Rapids are so immense that they may not be comprehended in an hour's study, nor by a hasty view. The camera has caught in this picture an expanse of perspective that extends far beyond what are known as the Upper Rapids, and on the right shows how the waters are drawn to the crotch to make their plunge in greatest volume.



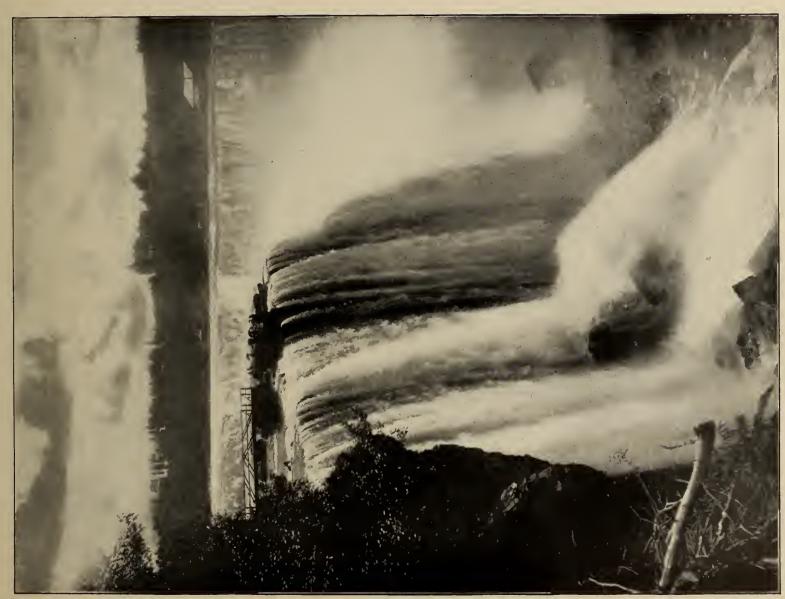
A GLORIOUS SIGHT OF HORSESHOE FALLS.—American Falls are more graceful but not nearly so color and more than twenty feet thick, a volume of water so tremendous that the mind can scarcely realize its large as Horseshoe Falls, which are two thousand three hundred and seventy-six feet in length and have a magnitude. Think of twenty-two million five hundred thousand gallons dashing over the lofty brink every second, and striking the river one hundred and sixty-five feet below! Why, it is like a concentration of all the mighty forces of nature into one awful cataclysm. The precipitation is in a solid wall, deep-green in perpendicular plunge of one hundred and sixty-five feet.



Niagara, where the grandest panorama that mortal eye can look upon is spread to view. Picturesque as it appears in the daytime, the sight is infinitely more glorious when the scene is flooded with light from a full moon, for it is then that the waters flash with electric jubilation and dark shadows show the most amazing THE FALLS BY MOONLIGHT.—Prospect Point, on the left, is one of the sublime beauty spots of contrasts.



AMERICAN FALLS FROM PROSPECT POINT.—A particularly expansive and impressive view is obtainable from a spot called Prospect Point, whence the mightiest sweep of the awe-compelling flood is both seen an 1 best realized, for as the eye takes in the wonderful scene of nature in her most tunnultuous mood, the ear is filled with an undying roar of the impetuous waters, and mists rise as if to hide its fury.



TERRAPIN ROCKS, HORSESHOE FALLS.—Horseshoe Falls, despite their well-defined, semi-circular shape and magnitude, are not nearly so graceful as American Falls. This disparity is due to the heavy drainage of water toward the centre, which leaves shallows toward the shores, from which rocks project. On the Goat Island brink are several large, generally flat stones to which the name Terrapin Rocks has been given for their fancied resemblance, perhaps, to that reptile.



feet in depth, and can be reached by a perpendicular winding stairway from Goat Island. The cave derives its name from the constant pressure of atmosphere, caused by the reflex of the falling water, which resembles AT THE FOOT OF CENTRE FALLS.—Centre Falls issue from between Luna and Goat Island, shown in the photograph. At the shore foot under the Falls is a place called Cave of the Winds, formed by thirty feet of projecting limestone that has resisted the action of the corroding waters while the shally substratum directly under the ledge has been eaten away. The so-called cave is one hundred feet in height and sixty a storm of great violence.



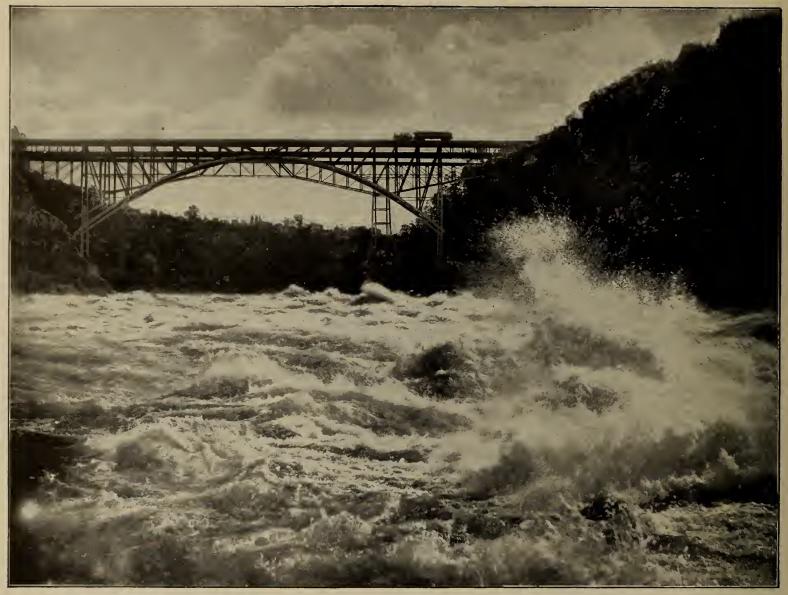
A PROFILE OF AMERICAN FALLS.—American Falls properly comprise two precipitating floods, for the stream as it approaches the fearful brink is divided by Luna Island, and goes tumbling with increased velocity over the ledge at Centre Falls, on one side, and American Falls on the other. At the point shown in the picture above, the sheer descent is one hundred and fifty-nine feet, and the width is eleven hundred feet. The amount of water thus precipitated is computed to be two million five hundred thousand gallons per second.



THE BRIDGE LEADING TO LUNA ISLAND.—This picturesque construction, spanning one of the fiercest torrents of Niagara, and embosomed in the wonderful vegetation that adorns both Goat and Luna Islands, is one of the most enjoyable retreats. The only known accident whereby a person was killed by a falling rock at Niagara happened some sixty years ago, when a mass of rock became detached from Goat Island, and in falling struck a Dr. Hungerford, of Niagara, who was instantly killed on the rocks beneath. On Luna Island bridge the glamor of Niagara, that radiant holiday-feeling that bewitches visitors is most pronounced. Luna Island commands a superb view of the American Falls, the Incline Railway, the gorge, and the bridges that span the torrent.



A TROLLEY LINE THROUGH THE GORGE.—The ruggedness and picturesqueness of nature about Niagara Falls has been seriously modified by the arts of man, the latest invasion being the construction of a trolley line through the gorge, starting at Prospect Park and passing close to Whirlpool Rapids and the river until it reaches Queenstown Heights. The ride is one of sensations, of pleasure and of surprise, which sometimes approaches trepidation, as towering rocks, looming threateningly over the tracks cut through bluffs, produce a feeling of insecurity.



WHIRLPOOL RAPIDS ABOVE THE BRIDGE.—Upper Whirlpool Rapids are about three miles below the Falls, at a point where the gorge is so narrow that the vast flow of water is brought suddenly into a constricted space, which, by the rapid current is caused to leap fully thirty feet above the natural river level. The noise of this tossing, swirling, foaming, struggle of maddened waters, descending at a grade of one hundred feet to the mile, and a depth of three hundred feet, is truly appalling as well as deafening. The canyon walls are not more than three hundred feet apart, and the rushing flow between them is at a speed of twenty-seven miles an hour.



HEAD OF THE WHIRLPOOL.—It will be seen from the above that the gorge takes a sharp turn to the east, by which a large basin is formed the sides of which are solid rock that tower perpendicularly to the amazing height of three hundred and fifty feet. Into this cul de sac, formed by sharp angles, the swift current dashes with such force that a whirlpool is created so powerful that any substance, however heavy, that comes within its radius is first tossed around and then sucked down into the vortex.



A GRAND VIEW OF NIAGARA



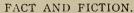


THE LOWER STEEL ARCH BRIDGE.—What is known as the Gorge is crossed at its narrowed point by an arch bridge built in 1897 by the Grand Trunk Railway. The arch is of 550 feet span, and supports two roadways, the topmost for trains, and the lower for wagons. A fine view of the Rapids may be had from this bridge.



AMBUSH ROCK AND DEVIL'S HOLE.—Another object of interest in the vicinity of Niagara is Devil's Hole, which is reached by a winding stairway descending from the Devil's Pulpit. A large boulder called "Ambush Rock" lies in front of the opening, as if it had been rolled there by a prehistoric people as a protection against a rush of invaders; indeed, not a few evidences are still visible of a race that once occupied this cave, which formerly extended three-quarters of a mile under the tock hills.







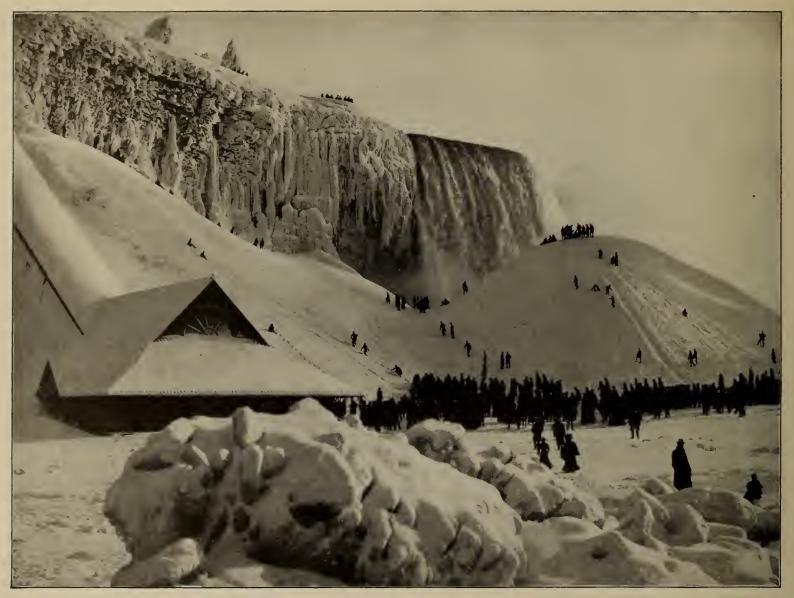
THE ARTIST'S FANCY.

FACT AND FICTION.—Among the legends about Niagara, an interesting one represents the Indians as holding the spirit of the cataract in great awe and of sacrificing a maiden of the tribe annually by sending her over the Falls in a canoe laden with fruits of the earth and the chase, in the belief that such an offering would influence the spirit of the waters to favor the tribe in war and peace.

AN ARTIST'S FANCY.—The companion pictures are reproductions of a painting by James Francis Brown, who uses the license of his profession to perpetuate a legend of the Niagara Indians, and to give embodiment to the spirit of the cataract. The ideas are distinctly poetic, as they are gracefully illustrated.



NIAGARA FALLS IN WINTER.—Niagara Falls is beautiful in its grandeur during summer, but it is awesomely wonderful when winter forms vast ice-bridges below the tremendous Fall, and piles up, with paroxysm of impetuosity, marvelous ice formations that take on a thousand fantastic shapes, to astonish and charm the beholder.



AN ICE MOUNTAIN AT THE FOOT OF AMERICAN FALLS.—It was an exceptionally cold winter that produced the remarkable ice formation photographed above. The base of the mountain are cakes of ice that, having become detached above, come tumbling over the brink and gradually accumulate as the spray freezes as it falls upon them. Thereafter, the weather continuing severe, the mountain increases rapidly until it reaches to more than half the height of the cataract, providing vantage points for visitors to observe more closely the grandest thing in nature.



ICE PALACE AT NIAGARA.—Ice palaces are not uncommon in northern latitudes, but nowhere else have they been built to show with such exquisite effects as at Niagara. The one herewith illustrated, was erected in 1898-9, on what is known as the State Reservation, and had dimensions of 160x120 feet. Its artistic design was marked, and being thoroughly wired for electric illumination, its beauty, especially at night, was almost unexampled.



A WINTER SCENE IN PROSPECT PARK.—Niagara has its largest patronage during the summer, for the convenience and comforts of travel are greatest at that season, but the Falls and their surroundings are equally attractive when they are under the spell of severe frigidity. The Park is especially wonderful to see, when it is coated with heavy ice. The most beautiful and fantastic formations of nature sculpturing and crowning are to be seen during winter time. A spray rises continually from the Falls, that settles on the adjacent trees, where winter speedily chills it into crystal forms as various in shape as they are exquisite in appearance.



THE ICE FORT UNDER UPPER STEEL ARCH.—This picture shows the solid breastwork of piled-up ice near the Falls, which collects on either side of the river, with a river of moving ice between. Of course, deep below the entire ice covering, the river flows uninterruptedly, bearing the tribute of the Great Inland Scas to the ocean, but at times it breaks its barriers of ice, earrying the débris of its erystal prison to the wide bosom of Lake Ontario.





TABLE ROCK AND CAVE OF THE WINDS.—Table Rock, which once was an object of greatest curiosity to Niagara visitors, has long since disappeared, and exists now only in pictures. It was a vast shelf of rock that gradually surrendered to the erosive waters. In 1818 six thousand square feet fell into the river, and larger masses were precipitated ten years later. In 1850 twelve thousand square feet of the shelf broke away, upon which it is said a number of people were standing a few hours before the fall. In 1867 so large a seam showed itself that as a matter of precaution the Canadian government caused the projecting rock to be blasted away entirely. The second picture, the Cave of the Winds, gyved with a marvelous accumulation of ice, and the great flow of water completely hidden by crystalline helmets. Such a sight is rarely to be witnessed, however, for history records only three, the last time in 1886, when, it is said, a million persons visited Niagara to see the marvelous exhibition of the ice king.



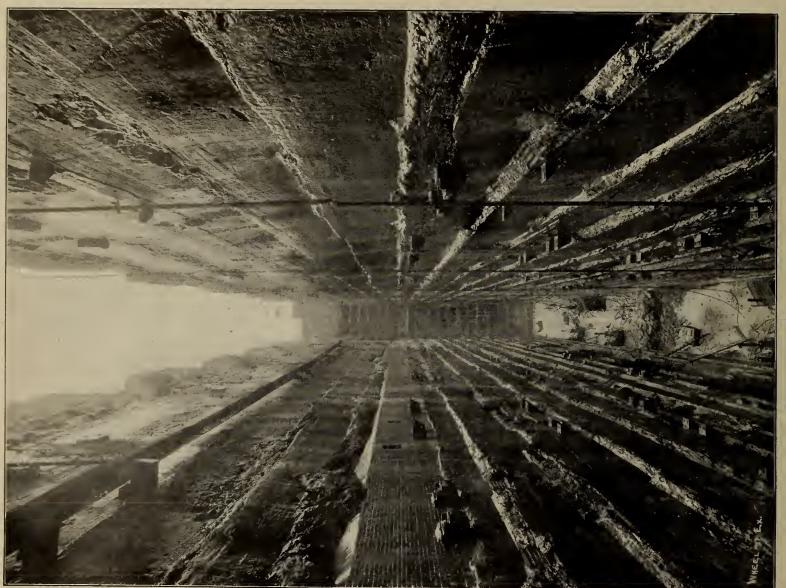
TERRAPIN ROCKS IN WINTER.—The water that flows over Terrapin Rocks becomes so shallow in winter that during very severe spells of cold great masses of ice form on the face of the chiff, which gradually rising, often block upon the brink and congealment of the surface takes place. The photograph herewith shows the Rocks as they appear at such a time, and also the ice formation at the base.



THE RAPIDS, GOAT ISLAND AND BATH ISLAND.—A semi-bird's-eye view is here given that shows three of the most picturesque objects about Niagara. Bath Island has an area of two acres, but a little beyond its point are two others called the Ship and Brig, that look not entirely unlike crows' nests anchored on the torrential stream. The bridge passages connecting the islands are admirably pictured, as are also the raging waters.



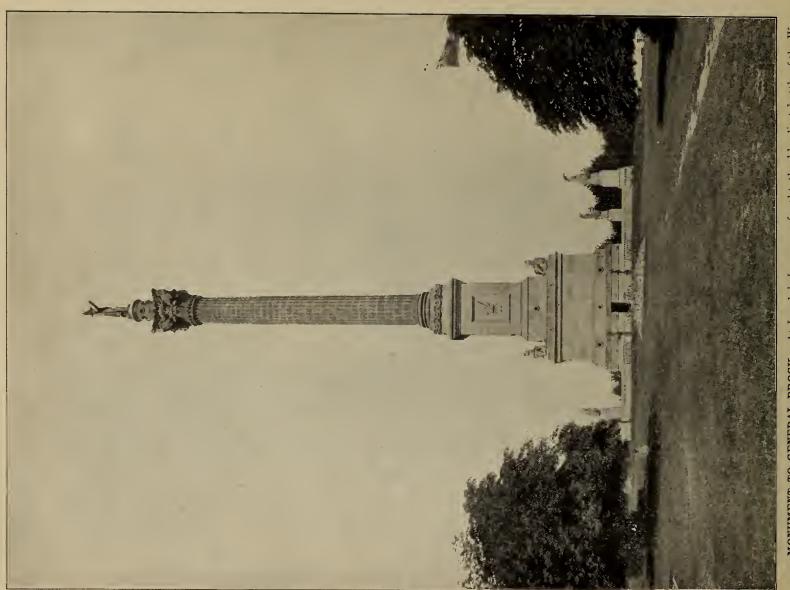
RAPIDS ABOVE THE FALL, AMERICAN SIDE.—This view represents the full breadth of the river, between the American shore and Goat Island, and the tumultuous character of the rapids on the American side. The bed of Niagara River at this point is a succession of shelves, from which at many places large rocks project to within a few feet of the surface. As the river contracts and shallows it increases in velocity and becomes a seething cauldron, boiling, tossing, leaping and swirling in mad abandon and irresistible force.



THE WHEEL-PIT AT NIAGARA. - The vast power of Niagara Falls has at length been harnessed and made subject to the uses of man. It was an immense undertaking, commensurate with the benefits that a The above illustration shows what is called the wheel-pit, a cleft one hundred and seventy-eight feet in depth connected with a tunnel tail-race seven thousand feet in length that runs beneath the town and discharges into the river. This tunnel is a wonder little short of the Falls themselves and admirably illustrates the contention of genius with the successful issue of the conception promised, to attempt to utilize the monster cataract. greatest powers of nature.



POWER HOUSE INTERIOR.—Niagara's immeasurable flood of water is now successfully utilized, after an enormous expenditure of money wisely applied under the direction of the greatest engineers of the century. The Niagara Hydraulic Manufacturing Company has now in daily use fifty thousand horse-power, in addition to furnishing power to many local manufactories, and electricity for street railways in Buffalo, twenty miles distant. The possibilities of Niagara are merely tested, for there is latent a power a thousand times greater than that which has been harnessed, and some time all this waste will be utilized.



of 1812, between our General Scott and the British General Riall. It took place on what are now the outskirts of Clifton, and deserves a monument. The one single monument that adorns the immediate section about Niagara Falls is that erected to the British General Sir Isaac Brock, the capturer of Detroit, who, on October 12, 1812, at the head of one thousand men, defended Queenstown, Ontario, against an attack of two MONUMENT TO GENERAL BROCK.—At Lundy's Lane, was fought the bloodiest battle of the War thousand five hundred Americans, under Colonel Winfield Scott, and was killed in the engagement. monument occupies a place on the battlefield, eight miles below the Falls.







